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Remarks

It is believed that the amended claims overcome the outstanding rejections and are patentable over the cited art since the cited art (US Patent No. 5,739,879 - Tsai) does not disclose or suggest a light guide embedded with a matrix of fluorescent particles that emit visible light, as recited in the amended claims of the present application. Tsai teaches that the fluorescent layer is separate from the light guide (see Fig. 8, items 81 and 80 respectively, and col. 8, line 67 – col. 9, line 1). Moreover, the portions of Tsai cited by the Examiner (col. 8, lines 24-44) merely disclose that the fluorescent coating composition layer 65 is coated on the lamp 66 and how the angle and thickness of the coating are determined (see Fig. 6). Here again, the fluorescent material in Tsai is not embedded in the light guide, as recited in the claims of the present invention.

The Examiner is asked to please call Applicant's representative, Fred Bailey (Reg. No. 42,282) at 703 312-6689, after review of the above to discuss these claim amendments.